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To Haliburton with love

The following is a letter written to the community by Haliburton resident Aggie Tose, who is the mother of Terry Casey, who lost her home to a house fire on Feb. 4.

What do you say?

My daughter, Terry Casey, her partner Andy Billings, granddaughter Emma Casey, grandsons Jaxen Casey, and Anson Casey lost their home on Feb. 4 to a fire. Her amazing tenant Jackie also lost her home. Everyone is safe including the cat and the dog!

So, how can you not be thankful?

At different times my grandsons, who are almost 10 and 12 said, "But it's not fair ... why Gramma?" Yes, fire is not fair! I had no answer, but to say it was okay because as long as they are all safe we can replace the stuff. Those words seem a lot more important now after I watched their home go up in smoke all day.

The Dysart et al Fire Department fought that fire tirelessly for nine plus hours! The darn thing wasn't giving an inch. The age of the home and the previous additions created many issues for our fire crew, but in the end they beat it down. At 12:09 pm I got the call about the fire, and, finally, at 9:48 pm Terry and her family were at my house and in the hot tub.

We are very blessed to live in this wonderful place called Haliburton. I couldn't imagine being anywhere else!

Our fire department is amazing and at times I could see many could not raise their arms because they were frozen and

see HOW page 2



Huskies return

Haliburton County Huskies centreman Patrick Saini attempts to evade Wellington Dukes defender Liam Whittaker during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Saturday, Feb. 5 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies lost 3-0 to the visitors, which were backstopped by their goalie Ethan Morrow, who earned the shutout. See story on page 12. /DARREN LUM Staff

MOH acknowledges frustration during pandemic

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking, held virtually on Feb. 2.

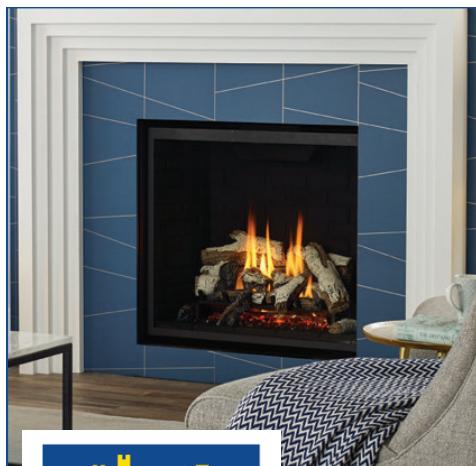
When asked for her thoughts on the current protests in Ottawa and throughout the province regarding vaccines, vaccine mandates and public health restrictions, Bocking said:

"I think it's fair to be frustrated. I think the pandemic overall has caused lots of frustration with many individuals and

impacted people in lots of different ways and so there are many people whose livelihoods have been impacted in ways that will take a long time to overcome," she said. "I respect the right of people to protest and share their opinion."

She said she does not believe that the

see MOH page 2



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'How, how do you say thank you for all of this?'

from page 1

yet they kept going. We do not give them the respect they deserve and I promise from this day forward I will.

So many neighbours came and brought hot coffee, served it and cleaned up for the fire department. They shared their homes for a place to warm up and care. Cody Hunter, shared his home for warmth, quiet conversation and refreshments and food. They brought snow pants, hats, and blankets for us and paper towels for the firefighters to try and dry their visors. Nancy Roberts arrived at some point with pizzas. We later added subway sandwiches and more coffee to keep everyone going, it was a long day.

The paramedic teams were there to make sure everyone was okay ALL day! Plus our Dysart crew maintaining traffic control. So thankful for all that they do.

My friends brought dinner to my house after the fire. Plus friends brought clothes for Terry and Andy. Friends of the boys brought clothes and gifts. Other friends have already scheduled dinners for other nights, we are so blessed!

How, how do you say thank you for all of this?

These amazing men and women gave their all at the fire, plus all who are so supportive to Terry and her family, there are just not enough words.

I am so grateful for all of you!!!

Thank you for being there for my family. I will never forget Feb. 4, 2022.



Dysart et al Fire Department firefighters work at extinguishing a fire at a residence on George Street on Friday, Feb. 4 in Haliburton. There were 26 firefighters who fought the fire for close to nine hours, even returning three other times over two days to ensure the fire was out. The house was a total loss. No injuries were reported. /DARREN LUM Staff

MOH thanks community for 'good work that has happened'

from page 1

"really disappointing kind of behaviours that have been reported from some protestors in Ottawa," reflects all protestors. "... [But] it is really concerning to see some of the rhetoric and some of the slogans that protestors are sharing, which are completely misinformation, harmful. It is never OK to compare a vaccine mandate to genocide. I think some of those messages are really problematic. I know they're not reflective of everybody, but I think sometimes, as I've been reminded by other folks ... your impact is sometimes different from what your intent is. I'm hopeful there's a resolution soon especially for those folks living in Ottawa."

Bocking was also asked if the protestors' sentiments were frustrating for her.

"I think it will always be there. I think we've learned with previous vaccine-preventable diseases that there will always be individuals that don't support the science or that have alternative understanding," she said. "I think we can always expect that there are people that oppose any sort of restrictions in the name of public health. I think the COVID pandemic has stressed all of us, but without public health restrictions, without vaccines, I can't imagine what the impact would have been on communities, so I really want to thank and emphasize all of the good work that has happened and all of those community members that have supported restrictions, supported vaccination because by far that's the majority of our community. This is a small proportion of people, very small relative to our overall population that are expressing their frustration right now."

A peak and a plateau

Bocking noted the provincial messaging that the Omicron wave, or number of infections, seems to have peaked and could potentially be on the decline, and said the HKPRD region tends to be a week behind the provincial average.

"I think that it's quite likely that we will have peaked this week or this past week," she said.

She also said it was important to remember that while the peak might have occurred, a plateau was also occurring. Lab-reported infections that had been reported to the health unit – those results only from people working or living in high-risk settings who are able to access PCR tests - have decreased from 100 to around 40 or 50 each day. The test positivity rate had stagnated, she said, staying at about 12 per cent over the past three weeks, and outbreaks have declined, with 15 in progress at the time

of the briefing – 10 in long-term care facilities and five in other congregate settings.

Booster recommended for protective benefit

"Despite the fact that our case numbers might be coming down a bit or plateauing, as you've likely heard from provincial media reports, we should expect to see ongoing hospital admissions and ICU admissions associated with COVID-19 for another couple of weeks," Bocking said.

At the time of the briefing there were 19 individuals admitted to hospital and six in the ICU. Since Jan. 1 there have been 50 hospital admissions, 13 ICU admissions and 14 deaths across the region.

Among hospital admissions, Bocking said the majority are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, with 56 per cent of those hospitalized having had no vaccinations, and 61 per cent admitted to ICU having not received vaccinations.

"There continues to be very good emerging data from not just Ontario numbers but also jurisdictions in the United States, the United Kingdom, that demonstrates the added protective benefit of a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine," Bocking said. "That continues to play a key role in helping to blunt the impact of Omicron variant on our healthcare system."

Bocking said the health unit is still hearing a number of questions from community members about why the total number of people vaccinated or unvaccinated seems to be the same among people admitted to hospitals, and directed the public to a video created by the Eastern Ontario health unit that speaks to rates of risk as opposed to absolute numbers and "why we really can't talk about absolute numbers of vaccinated/unvaccinated because that doesn't tell us really the true story among individuals admitted to hospital. What we really need to be talking about is the rate of infection, or the risk of infection, among people that are either not vaccinated or those that have received two doses or a booster dose."

Bocking said the risk factors previously identified in earlier waves of the pandemic that put somebody at higher risk for a severe outcome from infection remain the same: older age, obesity, medical conditions such as diabetes, chronic lung disease and other heart conditions.

Vaccination by the numbers

As of Jan. 31, 83 per cent of the population across the region that is 70 or older has received their booster dose.

Of those aged 50 and older, 70.3 per cent have received their booster dose, and of those 18 and older, 57.5 per cent have received their booster dose.

Bocking said she's hearing from some people a question of why someone should get the booster shot if those that are vaccinated are still becoming infected, and a comment of "we all should just get [the virus] so we don't need the vaccine."

"In response to that, increase your protection significantly against severe illness associated with COVID-19, and every time we prevent someone from developing a severe infection from COVID-19 and needing to be admitted to the hospital, we are helping to alleviate the pressure on our hospital to ensure that other ongoing healthcare needs are being met," she said.

She said that those who are looking for a booster dose after being infected with COVID-19 should wait until they are out of isolation and no longer having symptoms to do so.

Vaccine clinics beginning at schools

Vaccine clinics are being offered at schools where there is enough interest for those looking for an accessible, convenient space to have their children vaccinated, but Bocking reiterated that the health unit is not vaccinating any child that has not been given parental permission. As of Jan. 31, 46.9 per cent of children in the area had received their first dose of vaccine.

Bocking said there are two things to consider in terms of the importance of vaccinating children, one being the benefit for the child.

"We know that the risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 is less for children, it's a lower risk," she said. "We know that risk is not zero. There have been children admitted to hospital, admitted to ICUs, and a very very small number of deaths ... There is benefit for that individual child in receiving that vaccine."

The other is the community-level benefit.

"In helping to protect individuals that are vulnerable and aren't getting the full benefit of vaccines because of age or other medical conditions, the vaccines just aren't as protective for those individuals," she said. "We know that, the same as adults, children can get COVID-19 infection, they can pass it on, at a community-level. The more people vaccinated the less transmission we do have, and then we'll start to see overall less virus. I think they also play a key role in helping overall our community be well and prevent COVID-19 transmission."

Grateful for a great friend, community after fire

DARREN LUM

Editor

Sheena Boakes and her father of Cardiff need your help after being left with nothing but the clothes on their backs following a fire that consumed the house they were living in up until Jan. 31.

Boakes, a Grade 12 student at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS), said she had just come into the house from shovelling a path to the propane tank to help with the expected delivery of fuel when she noticed the fire.

"The truck was gonna come by and refill it and I was wearing two pairs of sweatpants, a couple pairs of socks and two shirts and two sweaters, so that I would be warm while shovelling and I took off one of the pairs of sweaters because I had to use the washroom and then the house set on fire," she said. "So pretty much what I had on was a sweater, two pairs of shirts, two pairs of pants and that was pretty much it. That's what I had."

She said because she left her shoes by the front door where the fire was, she was left with only open-toed sandals to leave the house in. A GoFundMe (www.gofundme.com/f/help-sheena-recover-from-childhood-home-fire) was started to help with the purchase of clothes, food and essentials, and put to housing.

HHSS principal Chris Boulay said an application was successful to receive a "sizable donation" from the Trillium Lakeland District School Board's Feed All Four Fund. The fund will help with

necessities for the student.

"A number of students and staff have brainstormed ideas on how we can help as a school community and this work will take place imminently," he said in a prepared statement.

In the rush to escape the fire, Sheena didn't know what happened to her two cats, Honey and Fluffy. Although she was told not to go back to the house after they left, she needed to know where her pets were.

"I couldn't leave it be. I needed to find them to know that they were OK and it was good that we did because Honey, my black tabby was stuck in the basement the whole time during the fire and was locked in my living room in the basement and couldn't get out and she was completely freaking out and Fluffy my younger kitten, who is an orange cat was upstairs and covered in ash," she said.

Since rescuing her cats, they've been closely monitored and kept in a crate to help with their recovery from trauma of the experience of living through a fire, Sheena said.

"I'm very thankful they weren't hurt," she said.

She said firefighters managed to save her father's tablet and wallet, but nothing else of his could be salvaged from the house damaged by the fire and the ensuing water damage to his clothing, which was in the lower portion of the house.

She's grateful to the people who have donated to her already, which has been in the form of clothes.

"I am extremely thankful to them and I don't know how I will ever repay

them or thank them enough because it's been so traumatic for me, and just knowing that there are people who care and who are helping. Just it reaches a deep place in my heart," she said.

While she is grateful for what she has received, which includes shirts and pants, she still needs more socks, sweaters, coats and footwear. Also, hygienic products such as shampoo, body wash, hair combs, lip balm. Her father hasn't received as much as her and she hopes he can receive some donations.

The senior high school student is appreciative of her best friend Jocelyn Winter and her family, who have opened up their home to her since the night of the fire.

"She's been my best friend for a while and for as long as I've known her she would do anything for the people she loves. She's really good like that. And I'm just really appreciative of her and her family for, you know, letting me stay

here for when I needed it," she said. The Wilberforce Elementary School graduates have been friends for several years. Jocelyn has been there for emotional support and was the first person to come to her the night of the fire.

"I was having such a bad panic attack and she was the first person I called and she was there within seconds ... she pretty much almost was tripping up and down her stairs trying to get out [of her house] and her dad rushed over and she was there pretty fast to help," she said.

Her father is living with friends across the road from the house they rented. Being able to live with her friend Jocelyn down the road, out of sight of what remains of her home has helped her.

"I for one don't think I could look at the house longer than, you know, five minutes at a time because it hurts," she said.

In addition to the GoFundMe option to help, reach out to the senior high school student at sheenaboakes@gmail.com or at 905-518-0525.



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Extendicare Haliburton is 'managing well' since outbreak

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

A facility-wide outbreak was declared by the (HKPRD) health unit on Jan. 28 at the Haliburton Extendicare.

Extendicare spokesperson Laura Gallant said the long-term facility located in the Village of Haliburton is operating under outbreak protocols.

"We are working closely with public health to ensure the continued health and safety of our residents," Gallant wrote in a prepared statement. "Currently, we have five active cases among team members and six active cases among residents. Symptoms, so far, are thankfully very mild and some are asymptomatic and we continue to monitor resident conditions closely. The home is managing well and has access to additional supports from Extendicare's corporate team should they need them."

HKPRD communications officer Bill Eekhof said the provincial government updated its COVID-19 guidance for the setting Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes on Feb. 3.

Provincial guidance requires that a COVID-19 outbreak be declared in a long term care setting when two or more residents and/or staff/other visitors in a home each receive a positive PCR test or rapid molecular test or rapid antigen test result and has an epidemiological link within a 10-day period. An epidemiological link is defined

as "reasonable evidence of transmission between resident/staff/other visitor and there is a risk of transmission of COVID-19 to residents within the home. Health units can also declare an outbreak based upon results from their own investigation.

Gallant said Extendicare is working to prevent further transmission of COVID-19.

"As COVID-19 continues to be present in the communities surrounding long-term care homes, so does the risk that the virus will enter a home. At Extendicare Haliburton, we are working with our health partners to administer third doses to residents, with 99 per cent of residents at the home having now received their third shot," Gallant continued. "Routine surveillance swabbing of all residents and team members is underway and will continue under public health direction. We are working to prevent transmission and are following all public health directives, including enhanced cleaning measures with additional staff in place to assist, use of N95 masks for all team members, and meeting or exceeding ministry requirements for staff testing and active symptom screening."

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, 126 COVID-19 outbreaks have been declared in the HKPRD health unit region. Of the 126, there have been 50 outbreaks of COVID-19 for long-term care homes/retirement homes, which include nine ongoing and 41 closed.

Eekhof added the health unit is working closely with Extendicare Haliburton to manage and control the out-

break, ensuring that staff and residents are protected against COVID-19. Outbreak measures include: regular testing of staff and residents, isolating/cohorting of residents, active screening for COVID-19 symptoms, limiting or restricting communal activities, putting in place visitor restrictions, limiting/restricting new admissions and limiting/restricting client absences. These are in addition to routine COVID-19 prevention measures such as mask use, physical distancing, vaccination, PPE use and regular cleaning/disinfecting.

Gallant was appreciative of the support they've received.

"We are providing regular updates to our team and families, and thank them for their support of our community throughout the pandemic. We will remain vigilant and continue to do what is necessary to protect those in our care until the virus is no longer a threat," she wrote.

An outbreak is declared over when there are no new COVID-19 cases in residents and staff linked to exposures in the home after 10 days from the latest of date of isolation of the last resident case, or date of illness onset of the last resident case, or date of last shift at work for last staff case. In homes with ongoing COVID-19 transmission and/or evidence of increased severity of illness, health units may also require 14 days to elapse before the outbreak is declared over.

Highlands protest convoy rolls through Haliburton

DARREN LUM

Editor

Horns sounded, people waved and Canadian flags were flown from dozens of vehicles that rolled through town close to the noon hour this past Saturday announcing they were done with restrictions and vaccine mandates related to health measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 implemented by the federal and provincial governments.

Abiding by the red light at Highland Street and Maple Avenue, the procession with an OPP estimate of close to 60 vehicles was intermittently stopped to turn left to Highway 118 to go to West Guilford, Carnarvon and then back to Minden where it started close to 11 a.m. It lined up past the town docks.

This convoy was a grass-roots protest for freedom, to support the truckers, particularly the 'Freedom Convoy' in Ottawa, which has continued since Friday on Jan. 28. The organization of the event was through the Haliburton Freedom Rally page (with 984 members as of Sunday, Feb. 6) on Facebook with Robyn Shaw and Scott Danilko as admin representatives.

Shaw, a Haliburton resident, said the convoy was



about uniting for autonomy.

"I want every single Canadian to be able to make their own choice. Everyone deserves that, vaxxed and unvaxxed, masked or unmasked. I see what the truckers are doing for everyone's freedom and I want to stand with them. I firmly believe that to sit by without speaking up and speaking my truth I am complicit in what I see as wrong and very dangerous," she wrote in a message.

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate of 1977 ultimately wants all the restrictions, mandates lifted, and eliminate vaccine passports for everyone.

"If people want to vaxx or mask up that is so, totally, OK. If that's what's best for them. I just want to be able

to make my own choice without being harassed or called names or told things like I don't deserve health or I'm a fascist or I'm selfish or stupid ... the list goes on and on," she wrote.

MPP Laurie Scott, who was in Haliburton Thursday to announce funding for the Municipality of Dysart et al and the Haliburton Legion, spoke about the protest in Ottawa when asked about the local protest convoy.

She said it was time for the 'Freedom Convoy' to leave Ottawa and she advised the local convoy organizers to keep it orderly.

"It's too much down there. They got their point. We heard it. Support the truckers. Absolutely," she said. "People's frustrations. We get it. We get it everyday and we're all tired of this, but we have to be careful. The restrictions. We got a map. We stick to it. Mostly everything's open now. Just hang in for a bit more. It's just the winter. The reality of protecting the healthcare system. But that's good if they want to protest. Just don't obstruct people's businesses or access to anything."

The OPP said there were no reported incidents.

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Carbon monoxide call highlights importance of detectors

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

A recent assistance call for three area residents who were suffering from carbon monoxide inhalation living north of Haliburton is a reminder of the importance of having a working carbon monoxide detector in the home said the Dysart et al Fire Department chief.

Fire chief Mike Iles said it's not just the law, but could save your life to have one.

"Please don't become a statistic because you failed to install or inspect your smoke and [carbon monoxide] alarms," he said in a prepared statement.

During the last week of January, members of the fire department were called to help three individuals suffering with the side effects of carbon monoxide inhalation. When the members of the fire department arrived the three individuals had left the residence, but exhibited symptoms of disorientation. All three were transported to Haliburton hospital and transferred to a hospital in Toronto for additional treatment. They were released the next day.

Iles said it's important to remember where to place detectors/alarms.

"As a minimum the fire code states

that there must be a smoke alarm placed outside of every sleeping area and on every floor. [Carbon monoxide] alarms must be placed outside of every sleeping area, if there is fuel burning appliances (wood stoves, oil furnaces, propane furnace/fridge/stove/hot water heaters, etc) or an attached garage," he said in a prepared statement.

Only use heating appliances that are approved for indoor use. Unless a portable heater is electric, it is typically not for indoor use and this includes propane cook stoves and ovens, which are designed for limited time of use he said.

"We can only hope that you'll impress upon a few more people and if one person listens, that might make a difference," he said in an interview with the *Echo*. "It's a very important message."

Many detectors can last 10 years, but needs maintenance and replacement after that time, he adds. Also, ensure the detector is clean, free from dust with a once-a-year vacuum. Detectors range in price from about \$25 for a battery powered one to more sophisticated units with the ability to have it powered by the electrical system of the house and have dual capabilities (smoke and carbon monoxide detection), which can cost upwards of \$200.

From the Health Canada website, carbon monoxide is a gas, which causes illness and death, but has no smell, taste, and colour. It is produced from burning coal, gasoline, natural gas, oil, propane and wood or wood pellets. It continues noting how carbon monoxide is also a product of second-hand smoke.

The greatest risk of carbon monoxide inhalation is in the winter months because most homes in Canada are heated by furnaces, wood stoves or wood pellets, water heaters or boilers and other appliances that run on burning fuels.

The symptoms associated to low levels of carbon monoxide inhalation include flu-like symptoms such as tiredness,

headaches, shortness of breath, impaired motor functions (muscle weakness, partial or total loss of function of a body part). At increased exposure and duration, the symptoms include dizziness, chest pain, poor vision, difficulty thinking while high of carbon dioxide inhalation the symptoms are convulsions, loss of consciousness, coma and death.

The characteristics of carbon monoxide make it deadly.

"So, in this case, you can't smell it. You can't see it. And by the time you realize you're suffering, the effects of [carbon monoxide] poisoning, it could be too late ... if you have anything but electric appliances, pretty much, you need to have a [carbon monoxide] alarm," Iles said.

Two charged after rolling stolen car

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has laid charges against two residents of the Municipality of Dysart et al who allegedly stole a vehicle and rolled it over on Essenville Line in the Municipality of Highlands East on Feb. 1.

Shortly before 8 a.m., the OPP, with Haliburton County Paramedic Services (EMS) and the Highlands East Fire Department, responded to a single motor vehicle collision on Essenville Line in Highlands East. Both occupants of the vehicle fled the scene prior to police arrival. The involved motor vehicle was reported stolen from the Greater Toronto Area.

The OPP's emergency response team and their canine unit assisted in the search for the two people. Both the driver and passenger were located and transported to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

As a result of the investigation, a 31-year-old resident of Dysart et al, who was the driver was arrested and charged with:

- Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs
- Possession property obtained by crime

over \$5,000

- Driving while under suspension
- Fail to remain
- Fail to report accident

The accused is scheduled to appear before the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden, on April 6, 2022.

The passenger was also arrested and charged with:

- Possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000
- Possession break-in instruments
- Failure to comply with release order
- Possession of ammunition contrary to prohibition order

The accused is scheduled to appear for a bail hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay, on Feb. 2, 2022.

Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting anyone with information that can assist with this investigation to call 1-888-310-1122 or 705-286-1431. Should you wish to remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a secure web-tip at <https://www.khcrimestoppers.com/>, where you may be eligible to receive a cash reward.

Submitted by the OPP



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If you have any questions or if you would like more information contact a Bahai in your area.

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West Guilford/Kenisis, Pat and Peter 416-606-9657
Eagle Lake/Fort Irwin Gord and Kathryn 705-754-0939 or www.bahai.org

Snowmobile fatality named

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have identified the driver in a fatal snowmobile collision that occurred on Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club trail E109 on Feb. 2 in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

The snowmobile driver, who was pronounced at the scene attended by the OPP and the Haliburton County Paramedic Services, has been identified as 58-year-old Robert Hubers of Leaskdale.

OPP technical collision investigators and collision reconstructionists attended and are assisting with the investigation of this collision. The office of the chief cor-

oner for Ontario was also requested and attended the scene.

The investigation continues and Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting anyone with information that can assist police to call 1-888-310-1122 or 705-286-1431. Snowmobilers are reminded to use caution at all times. Snowmobiling is an off-road activity that occurs in an unpredictable and uncontrollable natural environment. The OPP is committed to saving lives on Ontario's highways, trails and waterways through the reduction of preventable injury and death.

Submitted by the OPP

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Remember what's good

LOVE. A FOUR letter word. Simple in construction, but complicated to process when it's gone.

It's been central to art. It's launched a thousand ships. It's been at the heart of Wordle – a very popular contemporary word puzzle game. It's taken for granted by many that have it. But is the object of desire for those that long for it. I have loved. I have lost. Joy. Pain. Questions ... no answers. Getting older brings wisdom to accept love's loss. To accept unanswered questions, and left with just memories.

The ups and downs of life bring a roller-coaster of emotions. It challenges. Is it really better to have loved, and lost? Or do we tell ourselves that to give strength, so we can open our eyes to look past the greyness of a darkened sky and find the sun in hopes it can rid us of the winter of our discontent.

It's difficult to truly realize the loss of love until you know the shared look of recognition you had with someone is gone. They

gave you that feeling that makes your head light and your heart full. Memories are difficult, especially the ones that were so bright with joy that a future of pain from thinking of them was unfathomable. We never really know how tenuous the timeline of a relationship is until it reaches its end point and you're left with a proverbial period, an ending of a chapter.

Courage and perspective is needed to carry on ... to see there is a life, a possibility for something new. Another chapter.

There is love beyond what is lost. It exists with the friends we have. The family that is always there. It's there in the neighbours around us, ready to share a conversation and a laugh. It really is everywhere. We just need to

be open to it.

We're living in a confounding and anxious time. We've seen the financial struggles of area businesses trying to endure to residents challenged with employment and finding affordable housing. We've heard the tragedies of lives lost. And yet, there is a difference of opinion about how we choose to endure this chapter. I just wish we could start a new book. Find that novel with the bright, vibrantly coloured cover and the hope of a new future. But here we are living in a pandemic without an end. Life doesn't always provide do-overs.

How we proceed is up to us all. We can lament the loss or take solace in what we still have.

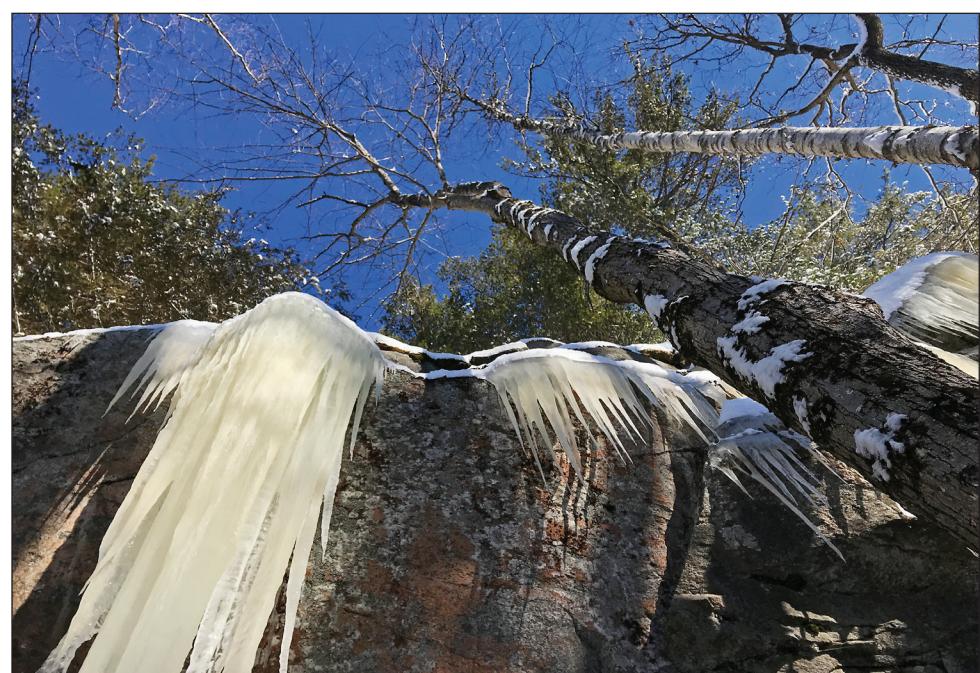
Remember there is hope. This week's *Echo* reminds us of the helpers and the ones that believe in love, whether it's in the tireless efforts of the Dysart et al Fire Department to control a house fire on George Street, or how the volunteer firefighters found a wedding ring in the charred remains of the house promised to a granddaughter, the

generosity of the George Street neighbours and community, who helped the family that lost their home to the fire; or how Cardiff showed warmth for Sheena Boakes and her father with donations, and how Sheena's best friend Jocelyn Winter and her family made sure to open their doors as well as their hearts to her, and, lastly, the featured couples of Beth Johns and Norris Turner, and Mark and Sandra Bramham help to show us the way. We will always have disagreements. There will always be different perspectives. It's clear the idea that love conquers all is best left for Hollywood and Hallmark movies. What love can give us is the strength to be open to understanding and enable us to trust in one another to care for each other.



**darren
lum**

Editorial



Icicles hang, frozen on the edge of a rock face in the Highlands.

by Darren Lum

Getting dumped

IT WAS NOT what he wanted to see. When Jim went to bed the night before, it had been snowing. Now it clung to every branch, fence post and parked vehicle. As he looked out the kitchen window, coffee mug in hand, he groaned. Another day with the shovel.

Pulling on his boots, he wondered how the early settlers had managed. Photographs of the old days showed thin trails of flattened snow headed down the village's main street. No snow plows at work back then. To get around you needed snowshoes and a horse-drawn sleigh.

It sure is pretty though, he mumbled to Linda the cat, as he grabbed his mitts, now dry after yesterday's workout. Linda just looked up at him from beside the woodstove and blinked. Let the crazy human do what he likes, she seemed to say, but she was not going anywhere.

When he stepped outside, the sunlight was blinding so he ducked back inside for sunglasses. Picking up the shovel by his front door, Jim proceeded to clear a path to the steps that led down to the ground. Snow laden branches bent almost in half made this tricky as they hung heavy and partly in the way. You'd never know it now, he told himself, but in the spring those branches were loaded with choke cherries and hungry birds. So he was careful not to break any more branches than he could help as he moved through the white with his shovel.

Across the road Jim's neighbour was also up and out, snow flying upward in a spray of white. The two men waved at each other. Later they would probably get together for coffee and a piece of pie. Jim knew there was just enough left over from the weekend to share with Dave. The two men usually took turns with the coffee and snack routine. It had started last winter. Dave, a widower, had taken up baking after his wife died.

He said the winter months were perfect for his new hobby. Jim then felt the pressure of competition as he also embarked on culinary creations. Spending time with others during the long dark months took some of the bite out of winter. The extra weight soon disappeared once he got working outside come spring.

After a heavy snowfall, the air was soft and silent. But then he heard a sound. Coming up the road was a small, light blue car. The road had not yet been plowed and the snow had to be at least a foot deep. Jim turned to see who might be venturing out at this point. Not recognizing the vehicle, he stood and watched as the car struggled to move forward.



**sharon
lynch**

Our road

Now the car's wheels were spinning. The female driver looked tense even from Jim's vantage point, as she sat rigidly forward, staring straight ahead as though determination alone would get her where she wanted to go. She stopped. Jim watched. Dave was also taking in the drama from the other side. Then she was backing up, getting ready to take a run at the snowy road. But this didn't work either as her wheels whined on the slick tire tracks.

Without a fuss, Jim and Dave each walked over to the car and offered to push. The driver smiled apologetically and gratefully accepted. After a couple of heave-hoes, they managed to move the vehicle over the hump and back onto a flatter surface. With profuse gratitude and a wave of the hand, the driver was off, skidding as she went. Jim looked at Dave and mused how long before she got stuck again. Snow tires, muttered Dave, shaking his head. There had been no snow tires on the little blue car.

As both men had worked up an appetite, it was the perfect time for coffee and pie. And since they half expected to see the little blue car sliding back their way at any time, they needed to fortify themselves.

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points of view

Hats off

YESTERDAY, while searching for a whoopee cushion in a box of incredibly important things that Jenn had somehow stored in a remote and shadowy corner of the crawlspace under a dusty tarp, I found my old, camouflaged fedora.

Young people these days don't know this – probably because they don't teach this sort of important history in school – but there was a time when fashion-savvy outdoors people thought the camouflaged fedora was "the cat's pajamas." For it was what we imagined Indiana Jones would wear on a hunt.

(Note to editor: Forgive me for resorting to the lingo of the young folks with that last feline sleepwear-related phrase, but I think it's important for us older types to be on top of the language, just in case we might one day have to "rap" with anyone under 40.)

Anyhow, I used to wear that hat all the time, until it went missing, roughly around the same time I met Jenn.

So, imagine my surprise when I tried it on yesterday morning and found that it was far too tight. My first thought was how could my high school teachers have been so wrong? I mean, every one of them repeatedly told me, "Your brain stopped growing a long time ago."

Clearly it had not.

Armed with this evidence, I walked up to Jenn with my hat precariously balanced atop my head and declared, "My hat does not fit me anymore. Do you know what this means?"

"You've got a fat head?" she

replied.

Tact is not her strong suit.

"No," I said. "It means my brain grew."

That revelation made her spit out her coffee. Yet, if you look at this logically, there is no other possibility. Once that hat fit. Now it does not.

Frankly, I suspected as much. I have read two books in the last month and have never once considered protesting anything in the dead of winter.

Right now, this is merely a theory, which is what all of us intelligent types say when we think we are onto something big. Admittedly, more research is needed.

That's why I also tried on one of my favourite ball caps yesterday evening in order to create a more current record of my hat size. And just to make sure no one tampered with it, I handed the hat to Jenn and explained that it was part of a ground-breaking experiment on brain growth.

"I will try it on tomorrow to collect data. Ensure no one tampers with the adjustable hat band," I said.

"Sure," she muttered.

This morning's results were fascinating. But rather than just tell you, I should let you read the entry I put in my scientific journal/colouring book for yourself.

"Yesterday, Subject 1 (that's me!) tried on baseball hat and adjusted hat band to fit him perfectly. Today, while witnessed by skeptical spouse, Subject 1 tried on the hat that spouse held in her safe keeping overnight. Inexplicably, Subject 1 was unable to fit hat over head, presumably because brain had grown even more with accompanying skull expansion overnight. To confirm, Subject 1 asked spouse to pinky swear that she did not adjust the hat's band to a much smaller size. Spouse pinky swore, though accompanying smirking seemed suspect ..."

Obviously, further data is required. But if this trend holds true, I will have to buy an 11-gallon hats soon. Which is good because my camouflaged fedora went missing again.



Loon Tales

steve
galea



pic of the past

A deer pays a visit to people on Highland Street where Jack Rule's outdoor store is (now Kósy Korner's driveway) and where the *Haliburton County Echo* used to be (what is now Maple Avenue Restaurant) in 1957. /Submitted by Bill Gliddon

Support for op-ed on shoreline bylaw

To the Editor,

Brian Atkins' op-ed *Other priorities more important than shoreline bylaw* in the Feb. 1 issue of the *Echo* was an excellent commentary on the proposed shoreline bylaw, and our local governments' continued focus on this issue. All of us want to preserve the natural beauty and envi-

ronmental health of our slice of heaven. Existing rules, bylaws, and inspection programs help do this. As Mr. Atkins points out, there are many other pressing issues that our local leaders and tax dollars need to be focused on.

Dave Sands
Long Lake



From the ashes

A picture of Stan and Norma Tose, who are Terry's grandparents with her grandmother's wedding ring were discovered by firefighters in the basement bedroom of the home that was destroyed by a fire on Friday, Feb. 4 located on George Street in Haliburton. The ring was a gift to daughter Emma Casey for her birthday last year, as it was a dying wish of Norma. See story on page 2. /Submitted by Aggie Tose



The key to a successful marriage is trust said Norris Turner and Beth Johns, who have been married since 1986. Submitted, and taken by Wendy Evenden.

Love is in the care

As Valentine's Day nears, long-time couples say trust is key to a relationship

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

It's not about lavish gifts, or flowers, or chocolates, or greeting cards.

The secret to a long-lasting relationship is building it on a foundation of friendship and trust. It's also about sharing common interests, but knowing that having differences is okay, as is giving each other space.

That's the common advice shared by two long-time local couples, who agreed to share the story of their lives ahead of Valentine's Day. As Feb. 14 approaches, many wonder what love really means and how it evolves; Beth Johns and Norris Turner, as well as Mark and Sandra Bramham are well qualified to offer their thoughts.

Beth Johns and Norris Turner can offer plenty of advice for couples – and not just because Norris is a retired therapist who once professionally offered marital counselling. It's also because their life stories have an incredible twist, and the change of direction has led them to 38 happy years of marriage and counting.

The couple from West Guilford are well-known locally for their volunteer work and for music. They both sing in community choirs and Beth was instrumental in the start of the of Haliburton's Outloud Womyn's Voices Chorus.

But the couple started out as siblings-in-law. Norris was originally married to Beth's sister, Kathy. After several years of marriage with two children, Cathy came out as lesbian. It was 1982 and, as Norris pointed out, that wasn't an easy thing to do then.

Norris was left soul-searching and he found he was confiding with Cathy, who was also recently divorced with two kids.

"We were both in a position of leaving a marriage at the same time; we had all this stuff that we needed to

talk about," Beth said.

As they developed feelings for each other, they knew it felt right, but worried their relationship could be questioned by some.

"There was a time when I called Norris my brother-friend-lover," Beth said, with a laugh.

But, in time, it became apparent to everyone around them that they were happy together. The two sets of children, who were biologically cousins, were OK with it. They didn't object to becoming cousins and step-siblings, when the couple married in 1986.

"Beth and I went through a time of doing double-checks. 'Is this OK?' We wanted to be fair to everyone involved," Norris said.

Beth said when the relationship got the blessing of her father, a man who was already Norris's father-in-law and someone who cared deeply about Norris, the couple knew it was the right thing to do.

Both Norris and Beth had busy careers and they've bounced around different locations in Canada. When they moved to the Haliburton Highlands region in 1998, they saw it as an opportunity to put the stresses from their past lives behind them and enjoy life as a couple.

As they participated in a phone interview, it was easy to hear that they care for each other. They had the ability to laugh at each other and share personal stories, without a sign of nervousness.

Beth has had better days – she recently broke her arm while out snowshoeing – but she said she trusts Norris to care for her.

"I've had health challenges," she said. "He's doing everything. I know he's always there for me. I always felt Norris is someone I can trust no matter what happens."

"I would say the same," said Norris. "I feel safe with Beth. Safety in a relationship is crucial, to be able to be vulnerable with each other (is important)."

Time together, time apart important

As Norris reflected on his earlier life, he said it was always "chaos." Raising children as a working parent wasn't easy. He admitted that he and Beth now have the ability to enjoy each other's company in a way that younger couples might not.

But his advice to other couples is to find a way to make time for each other, and find ways to spend time away from each other, when needed, too.

"Something I've learned is I need to have friendships that are beyond my marriage," he said, explaining that he plays and watches hockey, even though Beth has little interest in the sport.

Yet that's OK, because there's still plenty of things they like to do together; for instance they walk their dog together twice a day, rain or shine.

They also know that it's natural for couples to have disagreements or moments when they want to be alone. When that happens, their advice is to cool down and realize that not every problem has to be solved in the heat of the moment.

"My advice is step back, look inward, see what's going on with you," Norris said.

In Highlands East, Mark and Sandra Bramham are similar to Norris and Beth in many ways. Their story doesn't have the same twist – they were high school sweethearts who have been together since they were teenagers, growing up in Stouffville, Ontario.

But their affection for each other is clear and visible in-person, even after 55 years of marriage. The Bramhams own Esson Creek Maple and Greenmantle Mineral Tours, located on Essonville Line near Wilberforce.

As they sat together in a room in their barn, near the equipment they'll soon use to make maple syrup, they were at ease. They were able to share thoughts on a

see **EVERYDAY 9**

Everyday should be Valentine's Day

from page 8

topic without interrupting each other, or being offended when one of them offered a slight correction or disagreement.

Both are retired teachers and their careers took them to several places throughout Ontario, before they made Haliburton County their permanent home.

They bought their property in the 70s, but started living at it regularly in the 90s. Their active in the community; both contributed to St. Margaret Anglican Church in Wilberforce before COVID forced its closure and they're hoping the pandemic will level off enough by spring that they can offer mineral tours at their property. They have three grown children and five grandchildren who keep their household busy, too.

"It's the secret to aging well; to keep active," said Mark, who, like Sandra, is 78 years old.

They've also had some hard times of late. Various extended family members have, like so many in the world, experienced COVID-related hardships.

Sandra says she, at times, can feel bad, but she levels off those feelings when she realizes she still has "my best friend," referring to Mark.

"If you can marry someone you respect and like and have common interests with, it goes along way," Mark added.

Don't go to bed angry

They explained that many years ago they made a pact to never to go to bed angry with each other. Sandra offered that the key to a successful marriage is having "patience and tolerance" with a partner.

"We don't fight; we rarely have arguments. We listen to each other for the most part," she added.

They also enjoy doing simple things together, within the blue walls of their beautiful county-style home. They love watching PBS shows together on Sunday night. *Around the World in 80 Days* and *All Creatures Great and Small* are among their favourites.

Mark's advice to other couples is to realize that your partner will change as they get older and there's something rewarding about always being with the same person, through thick and thin.

"When you take an oath (to marry someone) before God, you have to be good to your word."

They admit they sometimes have disagreements, but they're careful to never say anything hurtful.

"You have to know how to read each other," Sandra said.

"You have to know when to fold them," Mark added.

What Valentine's Day means

While both couples were happy to share their love stories, they both said they both don't go overboard with Valentine's Day.

The Bramhams shared that they sometimes give each other cards and Sandra might make a special meal on the day, but that's about it. Sandra said she views Valentine's Day like Mother's Day; it's a nice event to sell cards, but people, she argued, should think about their mother – or their Valentine – every day of the year.

Likewise, Beth and Norris don't go nuts on Feb. 14 either. The couple have long believed in the importance of date nights, but don't often eat out, since they're both vegans.

"We're not celebrators," Norris said. "We say to each other 'every day is Valentine's Day.'"



Highlands East couple Sandra Bramham and husband Mark look at each other outside their barn where they will be producing maple syrup under the Esson Creek Maple name, which they will soon be working in with their family later this year. The couple will be celebrating their 55th anniversary this year. /Photo by Stephen Petrick

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CANOE
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Schmale believes next leader needs vision

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

Haliburton's Conservative Member of Parliament (MP) hopes his party can find a new leader that can bring the country together amid much frustration and division, after his colleagues moved quickly to remove leader Erin O'Toole.

In an interview from Ottawa on Feb. 3, MP Jamie Schmale downplayed any notion that his party was in disarray, but acknowledged there are different viewpoints within the Conservative Party.

"I think all Canadians are frustrated, are tired, they're done with COVID; they want to know that there's a light at the end of the tunnel. I think our members are no different," he said.

Those frustrations and the fact that the party was evaluating its next steps after losing a fall federal election that it thought was winnable, meant that some action had to be taken, he added.

"I think all of that boiled together and culminated to a point where the leadership of Erin was questioned and it was brought to a vote," he said.

Schmale is the MP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. He was elected to represent the riding for a third straight term in last fall's federal election.

While it was a landslide win for Schmale locally, the national story was different, as the Tories failed to dethrone Liberal leader Justin Trudeau as prime minister. Trudeau is now in his third term as the nation's leader. Just like in 2019, the 2021 election saw the Conservative Party win the national popular vote, but not enough seats in the House of Commons to lead the country, giving the Liberals a second straight minority government.

Conservative Party members voted to have O'Toole become their leader after Andrew Scheer stepped down following the 2019 election. However, O'Toole, who represents the neighbouring riding of Durham, saw his time as leader come to an abrupt halt on Feb. 1 when members of the Conservative caucus held a quickly-arranged vote on party leadership. Seventy-three Conservative MPs voted for a change in leadership, with just 45 voting to keep O'Toole on board.

Schmale declined to reveal how he voted, citing "cau-



Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale.
Submitted photo

cus confidentiality" rules. However, he has publicly supported O'Toole in the past. He supported O'Toole's first run for leadership in 2019, when he ultimately lost to Scheer. Following the vote, Schmale released a statement to thank O'Toole for his service. He described O'Toole as "a friend and a mentor."

Despite this, Schmale did not express any bitterness when discussing the situation. He said whenever a Conservative Party member loses an election, there's a mandatory leadership review process, so the vote was not surprising.

When asked whether the party is becoming too divided to function properly, Schmale answered calmly.

"I think we're all wanting a change in government, all the party members. There are frustrations. Some people were happy about some things, some were not. I think it comes down to the fact that there was a mandatory review coming anyway. I think there was a desire to change."

Schmale said that some division within the party is to be expected, given that Conservatives come from different parts of the country and have roots in various different ideologies.

He pointed out that these members usually rally around the common ideology they share; a belief that government should be small and taxes should be low.

He said he believes the party can find a new leader that can champion this belief and unite Canadians, citing Stephen Harper's run as prime minister, from 2006 to 2015 as a successful example.

"The next leader has to have a bold vision for Canadians," he said.

The Conservative Party announced on Feb. 2 that Candice Bergen, a Manitoba-based MP, will serve as interim leader.

Schmale said the party will look to have a new, permanent leader in place by the summer, so that person is in a good position to advocate for Canadians when Parliament resumes from its summer break in the fall.

He expects the leadership race to centre largely around fiscal issues, given that inflation is abnormally high, and that's an issue that impacts virtually all Canadians.

"The kitchen table issues, I think, are going to be front and centre," he said.

Schmale's statement acknowledged that extraordinary challenge O'Toole faced.

"The job is a difficult one during normal times, but was made all the more harder during the COVID-19 pandemic," he wrote.

The statement also rallied Conservatives to come together.

"Now is the time to move forward with a new leader who will unite our country and provide an alternative to rising inflation and deficit and unparalleled divisions created by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau."

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Economic report sees positive momentum amid growing disparity

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, along with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), released the sixth annual Ontario Economic Report (OER) on Feb. 6, offering a view of the economic forecast for 2022.

From a statement made by the chamber, the 72-page OER provides regional and sector-specific data on business confidence, policy priorities, and economic indicators, which together provide a unique view on the hurdles ahead.

Inflating costs of raw materials and transportation at the producer level have affected consumer prices, which rose 3.5 percent and are expected to rise another 3.5 percent in 2022. Ontario's year-over-year housing price growth was above 30 percent in December 2021.

In Muskoka and the Kawarthas - including Haliburton County - employment grew by 2.4 per cent after falling 2.5 per cent in 2019 and another one per cent in 2020. The chamber predicts a stronger uptick in 2022, with employment expected to rise by 3.5 per cent.

The region's economic growth is owed to its concentration of businesses in construction, manufacturing, and tourism-related industries - all of which are anticipated to make strong recoveries, assuming Ontario continues to ease public health restrictions as planned.

From a provincial perspective, the report outlines business confidence, which increased from a record low in 2020, amid progress on vaccinations and reopening.

2021 also saw positive employment growth, with the

exception of Northern Ontario, though several regions still struggle to offset the major job losses seen during the first year of the pandemic.

Small businesses found themselves preoccupied with cost relief measures, such as business taxes and electricity rates. In contrast, larger businesses focused more on long-term infrastructure, and faced issues around regulations and workplace development for employees.

Most sectors - 62 per cent - faced labour shortages over the year, with those shortages expected to continue over the next year.

Overall, the report states that 29 per cent of Ontario businesses were confident in Ontario's economic outlook, and 57 percent were confident in the outlook of their organizations. More pessimism was observed in smaller businesses, those located in border regions, organizations led by women and people with disabilities, and businesses in the arts, entertainment, and agricultural sectors.

Ontario's economic indicators began to see positive momentum in 2021 after hitting a record low in 2020. Real GDP (Gross Domestic Product - the monetary or market value of finished goods and services produced) rebounded by 4.2 per cent and is expected to grow another 4.1 percent this year. Meanwhile, employment grew 4.9 per cent and is forecasted to see 4.2 per cent growth in 2022.

Forecasts for 2022 suggest employment will recover to pre-pandemic levels for all regions except Toronto, Hamilton-Niagara Peninsula, London, Windsor-Sarnia, and Northwestern Ontario, suggesting that disparities continue to plague the province's economy.

The 2021 Ontario Economic Report is available to view on the OCC's homepage at <https://occ.ca/>.

Highlands East

Agricultural Fair is back for 2022

It's on! In Real Life! The board of the Wilberforce Agricultural Society met at the end of January, and decided to bring back the Wilberforce Agricultural Fair. So mark your calendars for Friday Aug. 5 and Saturday Aug. 6. Now there is something wonderful to look forward to.

The Fair has been going since 1984. It has always been a family affair. Families attend together, enter competitions together, play games and win prizes together, and even volunteer to make the event happen. There are horse pulls, pony pulls and kids pedal tractor pulls! There are farm animals! Free pony rides! Contests! Crafting for kids! "Milky the Cow" will be there! There's a Games Zone for anyone who is a kid at heart, and adults and kids show off in the home crafts and gardening and photography exhibits! There's prizes and music and Fair food!

I first went to the Fair in 2001, when I moved here full time, and I haven't missed one since. It marks the peak of summer. Somehow at least in my memory, there is always a gorgeous sunset and a full moon on Friday night for the pony pulls (the big horses pull on Saturday). I love the ponies best. They're like sled huskies, happy, small and mighty. Friday is the night to see the ponies and see who's come out a winner in the home-craft and garden exhibits and chat with whoever you run into that you haven't seen in a while. Saturday is the day to go back and grab a Fair lunch, (a Fair hamburger is the best hamburger!) check out the exhibits and demonstrations and vendors and watch the kids eyes get big like saucers when the heavy horses come out to pull and make the ground shake under the stands.

If you want to have the best time, the way to guarantee it is to enter something. There's a multitude of categories of things you can enter in the Fair, in fact I bet that almost anything you or your kids do for fun will fit a category. Instructions for how to enter are on the Fair website www.wilberforcefair.com.

Submitted by Joan Barton



Welcome back

Restaurants such as Haliburton's McKeeks Tap and Grill opened up their indoor dining areas last week since the province eased COVID-19 restrictions as of Jan. 31. The capacity limit for restaurants, bars, retailers, non-spectator areas of sports and recreational fitness facilities, and gyms, museums, recreational amenities, religious services is 50 per cent of capacity. Social gathering limits have increased to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors./DARREN LUM Staff

U-Links projects to focus on lack of rural service for eating disorders

STEPHEN PETRICK

Special to the Echo

If you or a loved one have struggled with an eating disorder while living in a rural community, U-Links would like to hear from you.

The research organization connected to Trent University is looking for people who can share their experiences of accessing treatment or mental health care services to treat their illness.

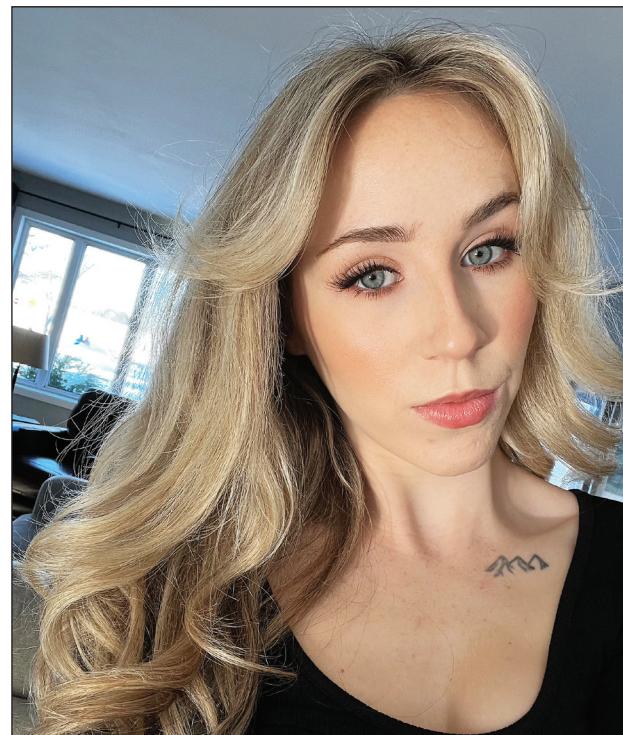
Interested participants can contact the principal investigator for the project, student Sara Moret. She can be reached at 705-957-7602 or sarahmoret@trentu.ca. The co-investigator and thesis supervisor is Dr. Naomi Nichols and he can be reached at 705-878-7297 or naominichols@trentu.ca.

Participating in the project is voluntary and those who share their stories will be kept anonymous.

The project hopes to address a concern in health care circles; that it's not easy for people in rural communities to access services for eating disorders such as anorexia or binge eating. There's also a belief that the pandemic has amplified this problem.

"Rural communities do not have a full spectrum of services that address a range of youth mental health issues, especially eating disorders," U-Links said in a media release to announce the project. "Local families and caregivers often struggle to support the well-being of their children due to inadequate mental health services and treatment options. The struggle is harder when it comes to eating disorders."

The release also states that "since the start of the pandemic, there has been a surge in eating disorder cases, according to Dr. Debra Katzman (from The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto). This surge is also being experienced in the U.S. and Britain. To make things more challenging, the pandemic has made it even more difficult to access services."



Sara Moret is the Trent University student working on the research project about services for eating disorders in rural communities. Submitted photo.

The researchers are concerned that, with so many disruptions to health care and school services over the past two years, that many people are not being seen and treated in the early stages of their illness.

Also, the prolonged period of lockdown can lead to relapses or an increase in eating disorder symptoms. "The Trent University/U-Links research project aims

to find out the ways that people in Haliburton County and rural Ontario are currently accessing information and treatment for eating disorders, as well as consulting with families to learn what parents and youth say would improve (or would have improved) their experience with mental health services for eating disorders," the release said.

Participants need to be 18 or older. They will be asked what they did to support themselves or their loved one and what factors may have made it more difficult for them to access services. They'll also be asked how the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the situation. The researchers hope to hold focus groups and interviews, via Zoom.

In an interview, U-Links administrator and logistics coordinator Daniele Pagliaro spoke about how important the project is.

U-Links, known fully as U-Links Centre for Community Based Research, is a unique organization as it matches Trent University students with research projects, with the hopes of gaining new insights on how to improve quality of life in rural areas.

There are high hopes for this project, Pagliaro said, as she praised Moret as a very dedicated undergrad honours thesis student and said Nichols is "a bit of a superstar" in the research world.

Much of the work related to gathering data has been done, she said, but now the team needs to hear from people directly. She said she hopes the project will ultimately answer questions such as, how can eating disorders among people in rural communities be identified sooner and how they can be matched with specialized practitioners more quickly? It's a daunting challenge given that many of them work in large cities.

She said the findings of the study will hopefully be available by March 26, when U-Links hosts its annual celebration of research. The event, once an in-person event, but now a virtual event, unveils student research projects that have taken place over the year.



Haliburton County Huskies forward Lucas Stevenson, from left, trails the play behind a rushing Wellington Dukes forward Emmet Pierce, who meets Huskies players Cameron Kosurko and Alex Pasternak during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Saturday, Feb. 5 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. The Huskies lost 3-0 to the visitors, which were backstopped by their goalie Ethan Morrow, who earned the shutout. /DARREN LUM Staff

Huskies shutout in first home game since shutdown

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

Following a red hot performance by Wellington Dukes goalie Ethan Morrow, the Huskies were left seeing red after suffering a 3-0 shutout loss Saturday, on Feb. 5 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. This was the team's first home game after the Ontario Junior Hockey League (OJHL) postponed their season for close to a month (and 125 games) due to the province's return to the modified version of Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen, which started on Jan. 5 and ended Jan. 21.

The first period saw neither team score, but the two Huskies powerplays saw the blue and white pepper Morrow with shot after shot. However, their efforts went in vain. With the teams heading back to the locker rooms at the first period intermission tied, the teams came out swinging in the second.

After Huskies forward Payton Schaly took a tripping call early in the period, the Dukes managed to break through and end the deadlock. Dukes player David Campbell set the table with a pass to the point, where Graham Dickerson's wrister found its way through traffic past Huskies goalie Christian Cicigoi. Just like that, it was 1-0.

After the goal, Haliburton County found themselves with three consecutive penalties, including one five on three opportunity for the Dukes. The Huskies special teams were exhausted at the end of the second. Despite the dominance in puck control from the Dukes, the Huskies kept the deficit to one.

Wellington took two separate penalties in the first seven minutes of the third, and the only sentiment that sentiment

that that up is missed opportunities for the home team. The Huskies threw everything they had at Dukes goalie Morrow. Huskies players Schaly, Nick Athanasaskos, Nate Porter, and Oliver Tarr all had come close to scoring, but all came up short.

The Dukes doubled their lead at 12:26 in the final frame.

After an errant pass ended up on the stick of Dukes player Corbin Roach, the speedy forward kicked in the jets and headed down the ice. Spinning around and beating Cicigoi, the Dukes now doubled their lead 2-0 despite the Huskies maintaining puck possession and offensive pressure.

The deal was sealed following Dickerson's second of the night, with an empty netter. Despite out shooting the Dukes 36-16, the Huskies were unable to beat Morrow who stood tall like a brick wall. After a narrow 4-3 overtime win Friday night against the Muskies in Lindsay, the Huskies' luck ran out as they fell 3-0 to the Dukes on home ice.

"I thought we played really well despite not getting the outcome we wanted," Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay said. "In the first period we dominated, but the second period killed us with three penalties in a row and we lost our swagger. You're gonna have those games where you think you play good enough to win. It didn't go our way, but for the most part I thought we played well."

The Huskies will head out to Toronto for a rematch with the Jr Canadiens before heading back to the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Friday, Feb. 11 for their final home meeting with the Toronto Patriots. The Huskies beat the Patriots 4-3 in their last meeting during the 2021 OJHL Governor's Showcase. The puck drop is at 7:30 p.m.



Haliburton County Huskies centre Nick Athanasaskos battles Wellington Dukes defender Alex Case during Ontario Junior Hockey League action on Saturday, Feb. 5 at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. /DARREN LUM Staff

Duhaime takes on curling giants at Tankard

NICK BERNARD

Staff Reporter

Following a shot at the Olympics and months away from the ice, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School alumnus, and competitive curler Connor Duhaime is looking forward to returning to the sheet for a bid to win this year's Tankard.

Duhaime and the rest of Team Ferris will be taking on some of curling's best rinks with a who's who of the sport such as John Epping, Tanner Horgan and Glenn Howard at the 2022 Ontario Tankard at The Plex in Port Elgin from Feb. 9 to 13.

Team Ferris is one of 12 teams vying for Ontario's top curling championship. The winning team will serve as Ontario's representative at the Briers, the Canadian championship.

Duhaime is a lifelong curler, starting out as a child in the Timbits program before going on to play successfully throughout high school with his brother Owen and fellow curlers Curtis Nichol and Jessie Walker.

"We've just kind of been doing it forever, so it's sort of a part of our DNA," he said as he reflected on his career so far.

His wife, Chantal, is also a curler. "It's kind of fun, you compete with ... a lot of the same people over the years, even from way back in juniors and stuff ... It's obviously competitive at this stage, but it's social too. A lot of our friends have come out of the curling circles."

The Tankard will be the first time



Team Ferris members Connor Duhaime, center, with teammates Zach Shurtleff, left, and Ian Dickie, right compete together. This team, which includes skip Pat Ferris, not pictured, will be competing in the Ontario Men's Tankard from Feb 9 to 13 in Port Elgin. Team Ferris earned its berth to the Tankard with the Trillium Tour Series qualifier./SUBMITTED

Team Ferris has been able to play together since the lifting of pandemic restrictions at the start of the year. Duhaime says that while he's been able

to train at home, he doesn't expect anyone to have the advantage as they return to the rink.

"Curling is a pretty unique sport, so

it's hard to train specifically for it other than just doing it," he said, describing

see TEAM page 14

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vs Toronto Patriots

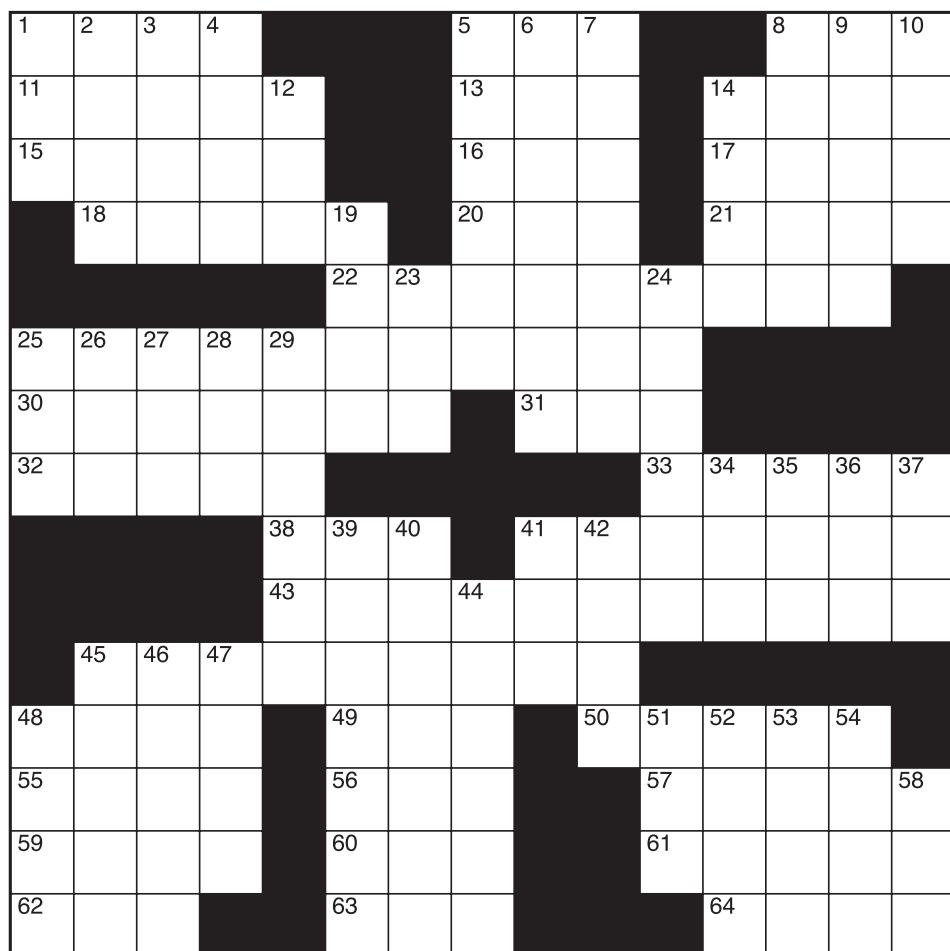
February 15 @ 7:30 p.m.
vs Caledon Admirals

February 19 @ 4:30 p.m.
vs Wellington Dukes

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- One who regrets
- Time zone
- Subway dweller
- Bend in a river
- Alias
- Isidor __, American Nobel physicist
- Very (music)
- Zero
- Phil __, former CIA
- Competitions
- Unwell
- Puts in place
- Gets rid of
- Allows light to pass through
- Climbed quickly
- We all have it
- There's a North & South
- Emaciation
- Supervises flying
- Very dark colors
- Unwanted
- Grants
- Three visited Jesus
- Wife of Amun
- Broadway actress Daisy
- A Spanish river
- I (German)
- French opera composer
- Six (Spanish)
- Last letter
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Noah had one
- Make a mistake
- Tall plant

CLUES DOWN

- Computer memory
- "Et __": "And wife" (Latin)

Answers on page 16

Team Ferris strategizing for Tankard

from page 13

the routine he maintained for himself while restrictions were in place, and how it factored into his preparation for the event. "The good thing is everybody else is in ... the same boat as us. I imagine there'll be a little bit of rust the first couple of games, and then people settle in."

This will also be the end of a lengthy break for the Tankard itself, as it was canceled in 2021 due to COVID-19.

Duhaime takes Team Ferris's second position, with Ian Dickie as third, Zach Shurtleff as lead, and Pat Ferris as the skip. Duhaime says staying in touch with the team through the restrictions has allowed them to maintain their team cohesion.

"We kind of live scattered across," he said, listing off places like Guelph and Burlington. Duhaime lives in Bar-

rie. "We chat often and kinda keep in touch with what's going on. We're sort of in planning mode now for the event, so we'll have limited practice, but we can have some good team plans and strategy before going into it."

Often, large curling events are hosted in hockey arenas that are converted into curling surfaces, but with events like the Tankard, Duhaime said the surfaces are well-treated, ideal for formulating those strategies ahead of time.

"Going into these [events], we know we're going to have awesome conditions," he said. "So we can kind of plan ahead. Like, on this super ice, this is the game style that works for us ... I think we can come in game one knowing what we need to do."

The 2022 Ontario Tankard will be streamed live at CurlONTV.ca.

**Dysart boosted**

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott, far left, came to Haliburton to see Legion past-president Paul Sisson, which was part of an announcement for the capital grant of \$104,000 to help the Royal Canadian Legion Haliburton Branch 129 upgrade the Haliburton facility on Thursday Feb. 3. This money will be used to replace two sets of windows, one on the main floor and one set on the lower level; upgrade and replace the heating and air conditioning system that has been in use for 30 years; the purchase of an electronic bulletin board and to purchase an ultra-violet water filtration system. /DARREN LUM Staff



MPP Laurie Scott, far left, came to Haliburton to see West Guilford Recreation Centre committee president Tanya Sisson, as it was part of an announcement for a capital grant worth \$162,000 to upgrade two rinks in Dysart et al on Thursday Feb. 3. This money will be used towards upgrades and repairs (new pad, boards and lighting to illuminate the entire playing surface) to the outdoor rinks in West Guilford and Harcourt, so it can provide hockey in the winter, but also be used the rest of the year for pickleball, ball hockey and basketball. The funding the Legion and Dysart was part of \$46 million to support 186 municipalities, Indigenous communities and non-profit tourism, culture, sport and recreation organizations facing challenges related to COVID-19. This is part of the province's Community Building Fund worth \$105 million. /DARREN LUM Staff

Arts Council not backing down to COVID-19

CHRIS DROST

Special to the Echo

The Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands is looking forward to the future after facing two very difficult years with the pandemic, which has changed everything.

"In 2020 we questioned, what do we do now? Then, in 2021 we worked on how to make things work in the new normal. This year we are looking to brighter days ahead," outgoing chair of the Arts Council Kate Butler said, referencing the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

At this point, Butler said, the Arts Council is looking at ways to support members and to find different approaches for reaching out to them.

"There are lots of local artists and artisans who are looking for new ways to offer what they do," she explains. One of these was through the launch of the Digital Comfort Studio.

"In 2021, we launched a program for our members called the Digital Comfort Studio which was hosted with the assistance of the HCDC," Arts Council director Chris Lynd said, referring to the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

"Additional funding was also obtained through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund, which made it possible for the Arts Council to hire coordinators, artists and other professionals to present their expertise, advice and feedback to Arts Council members and the arts community through an eight-week program," Arts Council director Pat Jones said.

"It had become apparent at the beginning of the pandemic that in-person sales were going to be affected negatively and that even without the effect of the pandemic, online sales were becoming the way of the future. Many artists needed assistance with this move, so we hosted a series of online workshops led by experienced artists who had expertise in building an online presence. The topics included creating a successful profile on social media, understanding the ins and outs of e-commerce, the important elements on a website and relationships with consumers."

Kathy Purc, a literary artist who has lived in the Haliburton Highlands for 30 years, never thought the Arts Council could help her. She thought it was more for visual artists than a writer like her. Since launching her memoirs in the fall of 2020 in a book called, *Stonehouse stories : The Memoir of a Free-Range Kid*, she had to re-think how to promote her work.

"All those thoughts of an in-person book launch and going on the road were cancelled." Prior to getting involved with the Digital Comfort Studio workshops she had little online experience. "I dove right into it and found it was a place I belonged. There were lots of visual artists but we are all storytellers," Purc said. She completed the entire session and learned a lot from a variety of facilitators and other artists. She describes it as a very intensive program where she learned about everything from branding, logos, use of colour, and the different social media platforms.

"There was lots of homework, but it was perfect for the time, and I love learning. It helped me make connections and gave me confidence. I am looking forward to learning more about podcasting this spring."

Following the Digital Comfort Studio program, the Digital Comfort Café was designed as an extension. A series of four individual workshops were offered covering Instagram, using IG analytics, platform, social media and more.

If that were not enough, the Arts Council also became a member of the online shopping platform called ShopCloseBuy, a growing e-commerce site created by Technologies Plus of Haliburton.

"Through the Arts Council ShopCloseBuy account we promote the work of our members who sign on with us for this free service. Members can display their products and events, and direct buyers to their own website for sales," Lynd explains.

The AC Literary Arts Committee, Haliburton Reads and Writes, has focused on virtual events and has initiated a program called "6-Minute Escape," which can be viewed any time on the Arts Council YouTube channel. These compilations of short videos are entertaining and inspiring. The most recent one was produced in partnership with the Halls Island Artist Residency, featuring the artists from the 2021 summer residency.

The Arts Council, in partnership with Canoe FM, continues to offer the weekly radio program *The Story Circle*



Author Kathy Purc, who wrote the *Stonehouse stories: The Memoir of a Free-Range Kid*, appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Digital Comfort Studio workshops offered through the Arts Council. /DARREN LUM Staff

in which local writers read short stories or poetry.

The Arts Council is currently working on three projects for 2022, which will provide work opportunities, sales and promotion to our members, and will engage with the community at large.

"These plans will be adapted depending on the state of the pandemic over the next few months, but we continue to move forward with optimism," Lynd said.

The first is a Community Workshop Project which will bring a number of workshops to community members of all ages, delivered by Arts Council artists and artisans. This project is expected this spring when artists can meet face-to-face and learn some new techniques and enjoy the company of others.

Next is a County Arts Trail through the summer and autumn, which will place the art and crafts of Arts Council members in selected locations across Haliburton County. A map will lead visitors to view the work in interesting venues and provide contact information for each artist.

And last, the Haliburton Reads and Writes committee is planning an event which is tentatively being

called "Bookapalooza" in the fall, which will include a trade show for all things literary, workshops, book readings and presentations by known authors. There will be something for readers and writers of all ages.

"We have done a lot to pivot, to pivot, to pivot. We keep learning as we go and anticipate that 2022 will bring better things ahead and are actually feeling optimistic," Butler said. She adds that they have a fantastic board that works well together and members are always willing to take on projects.

The Arts Council recently held its annual general meeting where Scott Walling was elected as the new chair. The transition has already begun for this change in leadership. Further information on the Arts Council and its programs is available at www.haliburtonarts.on.ca.



The BIA is hosting its Annual General Meeting on Zoom. The meeting will be held online on Thursday, February 17, 7pm.

**Please join us by emailing:
haliburtonbia@mail.com**
Information on how to attend will be sent to you.



Notice of Fee By-Law Amendments

Dysart et al Council, at their February 22, 2022 meeting, will be considering changes to Fee By-Law 2021-83 to incorporate a fee structure for use of the Haliburton Welcome Centre Washrooms during events in the park.

Further information on these fee changes will be available on <https://www.dysartetal.ca/>.

Andrea Mueller, Manager of Programs and Events

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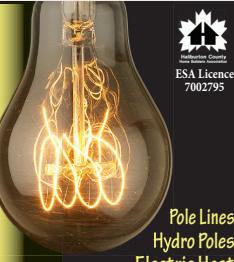
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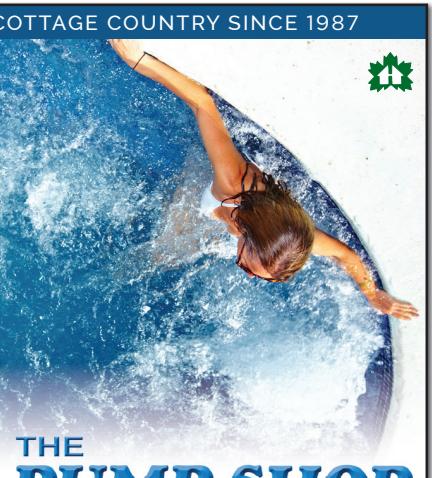
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Haliburton Echo

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560 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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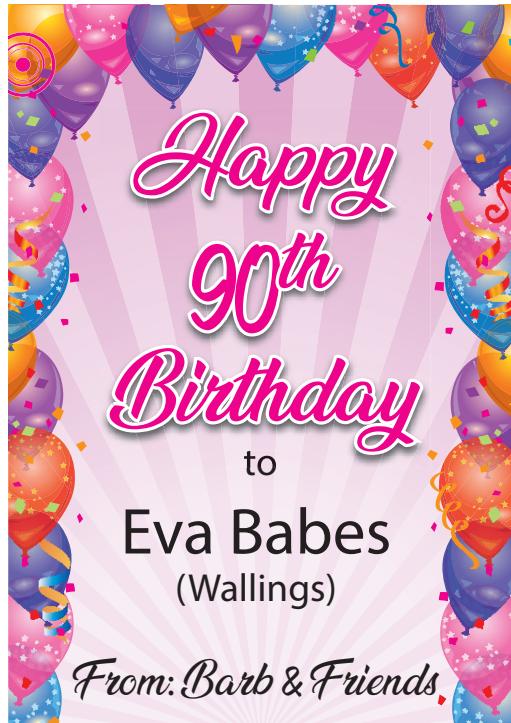
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500 ANNOUNCEMENTS



640 IN MEMORIAM

In Memory of

Robert J. Colwell

August 17, 1928 to February 10, 2021



Those we love don't go away.
 They walk beside us every day,
 unseen, unheard, but always near.
 Still missed and very dear.

The Colwell Family

*In loving memory of
 a dear husband*

McNeil Merreit Sr:
 February 13, 1998

As time goes on without you
 And days turn into years
 They hold a million memories
 And a thousand silent tears.
 To me you were so special
 What more is there to say
 Except to wish with all my heart
 That you were here today and
 that we meet again someday.
 Always loved and missed.
Your wife Mary McNeil



McNeil Merreit Sr

In memory of a dear dad who passed away February 13, 1998.

*It's been 24 yrs. since you passed away.
 And we miss you dearly every day.
 To us it seems forever since we've seen
 your smiling face.
 But we must go on daily with
 God's Amazing Grace.
 Always remembered, loved, missed
 each day and year.
 Your daughter,
 Wanda-Lee McNeil*

*Forever in
 our hearts...*

Remember

They are waiting
 by the river,
 Just across
 the silent stream
 Where sweet flowers
 are ever blooming
 And the banks are
 ever green.



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650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
Madeline Marion Peacock

1931 - 2022

Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood LTC, Haliburton on Monday, January 31, 2022.

She is predeceased by her husband Bill (2014). Mother of Marilyn Wagg (Doug) and Murray (Diane-deceased). Grandmother of Steven Wagg (Patricia), Ron Wagg (Kelly), Michael Peacock (Natalie), Aaron Peacock, Jordan Peacock (Madeline) and great grandmother of Kaela, Lucas, Bronwyn, Adele, Melissa Wagg and Garrett, Eli, Brayden, Callie and Thomas Peacock. Predeceased by her siblings Scott, Emmy, Iva, Andy, Mildred, Ira and Margarite.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a Graveside Committal Service and Interment will be held at the Glamorgan Cemetery, Gooderham in the Spring.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of
William "Bill" Reynolds

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Sunday, January 30, 2022, in his 82nd year.

Beloved husband of the late Blythe (2020) (nee Cooper). Dear brother of Merrie (Merrill Barry), Neil (Sheila) and brother-in-law to Wanda, Elsie and Mary Jane. Predeceased by Francis (Victor), Barbara (Wilford), James, Gloria (Glenn), Joy (Ken), Ben and Robert. Fondly remembered by the Cooper family and by his nieces, nephews and friends.

It was Bill's wish for a cremation and a Private Family Graveside service for Bill and Blythe will take place at Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery in the spring.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highland Health Services Foundation - Hyland Crest Residents Council (HHHSF- Hyland Crest Residents Council) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



In Loving Memory of
DAHLKE, KAETHE JOHANNA MARIA (nee Severin)

Died peacefully January 29, 2022 at age 95 at Centennial Place, Millbrook ON.

Beloved wife of Dieter Dahlke, her husband of more than 65 years. Predeceased by her grandson, Dylan Robert Dahlke, her four brothers: Hubert, Herbert, Gerhard and Wolfgang, and by two of her sisters: Anita and Ria. Lovingly remembered by her six children: Frank (Cindy), Catheryne (Drew), Haro, Uwaya, Caroline and Kyra (Anthony). Oma to 11 surviving grandchildren: Jasmine, Stephen (Carolynne), James (Khannie), David (Alyssa), Kaetlyn (Andrew), Adeilah (Luc), Cooper, Mitchell (Michelle), Kyron (Ashly), Alana, and Severyn. Great-grandmother to four: Charlene, Lucas, Frederick and Marc. Forever missed by her three remaining sisters: Inge, Edeltraud, and Liesel.

Kaethe was born in Germany in 1926. At the end of WW2, she studied nursing in Wales, Great Britain. She worked for the American army stationed in Germany as a Registered Nurse, before immigrating to Canada in the 1950s. While working as a nurse in Hamilton, Kaethe met Dieter on a blind date. They began a beautiful courtship, and married shortly thereafter. She had a long nursing career including as a traveling nurse with the VON, and working with the elderly.

Kaethe loved to read about ancient and modern European and Mesopotamian history. She was an avid gardener and loved birds. She was also a gracious hostess and a talented cook. Among the many memories her family shares, are the countless holiday feasts and gatherings that Kaethe would plan and prepare. She was always full of love and joy when surrounded by her family and friends. Kaethe was a talented clothing designer, creating one-of-a-kind pieces via knitting, crocheting and sewing. The day after Christmas, she would begin to knit Christmas presents for her entire family for the following year.

A Funeral Service will be held Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the HIGHLAND PARK FUNERAL CENTRE, 2510 Bensfort Rd, Peterborough, ON. Those wishing to attend must RSVP. Those without an RSVP cannot be admitted. Condolences, reservations, and streaming options may be done online at www.millvalleyfuneral.com. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to CNIB or Covenant House Toronto.

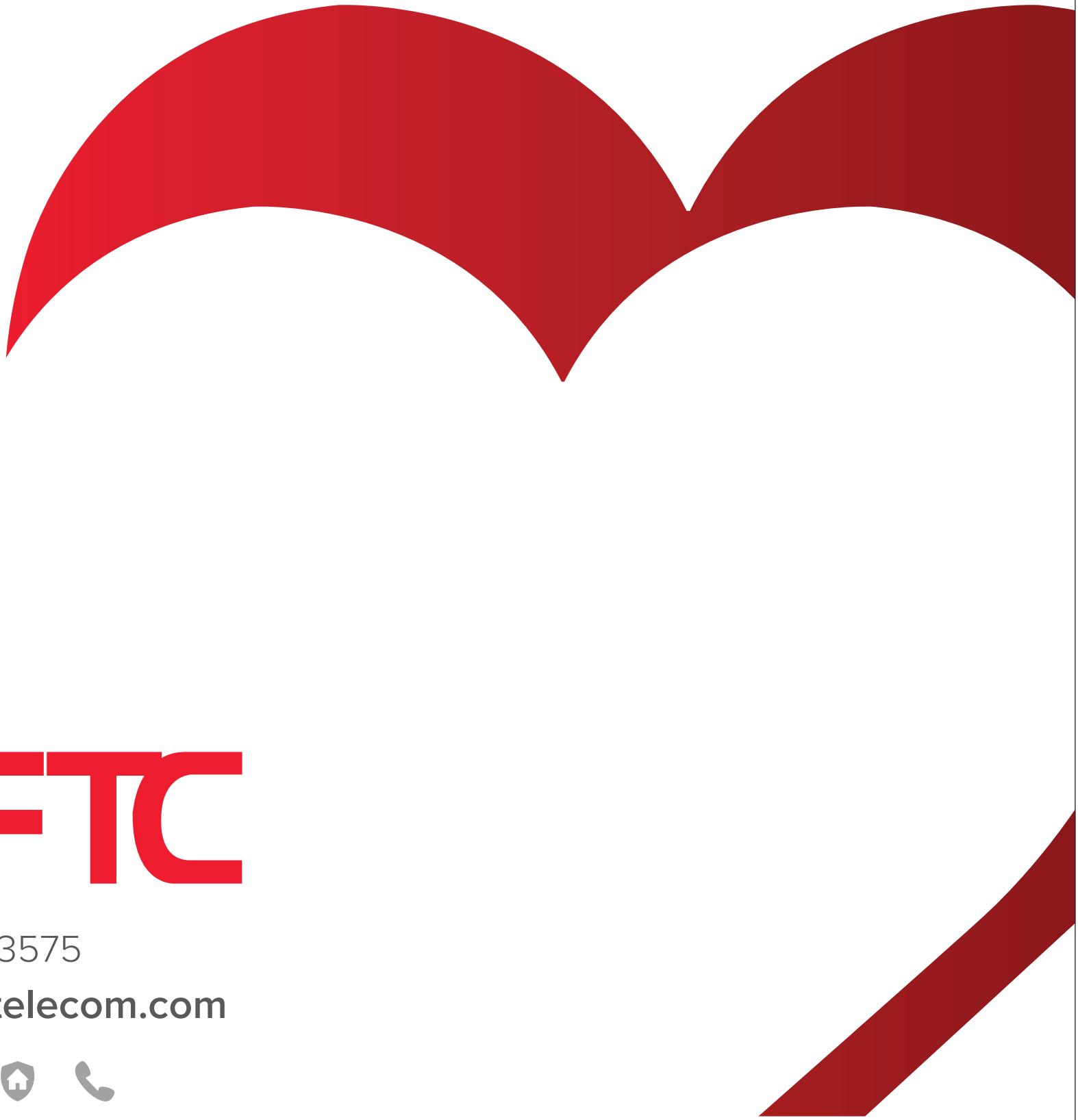


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 They walk beside us every day.
 Unseen, unheard, but always near
 Still loved, still missed and very dear.*



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INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN
Breast cancer patients get a helping hand from revved up women snowmobile riders

HAVE WE GOT LETTERS
Readers weigh in on asphalt debate on paper and on-line

ON TO PROVINCIALS
The boys curling team at the high school is vying for top title in Ontario

THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007

VOL. 124 NO. 6 \$1.25 INCL. GST

Who's your idol?

SIRCH is on the lookout for Haliburton's next musical prodigy

STEVE GALEA

Special to the Echo

American Idol move over. Thanks to Betty Ujvari and the SIRCH fundraising committee, we now have a contest of our own. Haliburton County Idol promises to be everything that the popular television series is – but without Simon Cowell.

"We know we have a lot of great talent in the county and we were looking for a way to showcase it while, at the same time, raising the profile of SIRCH Community Services and Consulting," says Ujvari.

The singing contest is open to youth aged 11 to 19 and the prize package is nothing short of incredible. The winner gets to professionally record a three-song demo and experience an image makeover as well as a professional photo shoot. That three-song demo, by the way, will be added to Canoe FM's regular play list.

"This is an excellent opportunity for youth to find out a little about what it takes to make it in the music industry," Ujvari says. "And we expect it to be a lot of fun too."

The fun part, she says, starts with the fact that none of our judges will be anything like Simon Cowell, the caustic American Idol judge whom everyone loves to hate.

"Right now, we've got high school music teacher Tom Regina, and Guess Who frontman and Canoe FM deejay Carl Dixon on the panel. Each promises gentle but constructive crit-

See Lots of page 4

CASEY LESSARD/Echo



Where did I leave my map?

Bill Barbour was one of many following the path of the labyrinth near the volleyball courts in Head Lake Park Friday night. The labyrinth is one of three – two Cretan and one a copy of the Bayeux cathedral labyrinth – carved in the snow by Rails End Gallery executive director Laurie Jones and helpers Donna McCallum and Fay Wilkinson. "Never seen anything like this before," Barbour said. "We're new to the area, so we wanted to see what's going on. It was very good. I had fun."

Dysart gets tough on recycling

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

In coming years, the preservation of landfill space is expected to be one of the most pressing issues facing the whole of Haliburton County.

Already, Highlands East is facing a looming crisis, with several of their dumps expected to fill up by the end of the current council's four-year term.

In the neighbouring municipality of Dysart et al, municipal officials have also made landfill preservation a top priority for the coming decade, with one of the biggest initiatives being a mandatory recycling policy that was introduced last September.

Speaking on behalf of the previ-

ous council, Reeve Murray Fearrey says the push towards mandatory recycling was a necessary measure to ensure that Dysart's landfills aren't overburdened as the area continues to thrive and grow.

"We have a lot of potential development on the horizon, and we need to preserve as much space as we can in order to accommodate that," says Fearrey. "They're saying we have 15 years left [at the Haliburton site], but it won't be 15 years if we don't recycle and continue to have growth."

Though most of Dysart's municipal dumps have had recycling facilities on-site for upwards of 15 years, Fearrey says that many residents needed the

extra push to change their old habits and begin using the facilities.

"The reason we made it mandatory is because we had such a terrible record of voluntary recycling. People were just not paying any attention or getting serious about it," he says. "We compared ourselves to all our neighbours and we were way behind."

The new policy was first implemented five months ago, and is already making an impact. Mark Brohm, manager of the Haliburton landfill site, says the initiative has resulted in a noticeable increase in the amount of recycling that is leaving the site. In fact, he says there has been

See Municipality page 11



Response to mandatory recycling has been positive thus far, but some users are still not sorting their trash before visiting municipal landfills.

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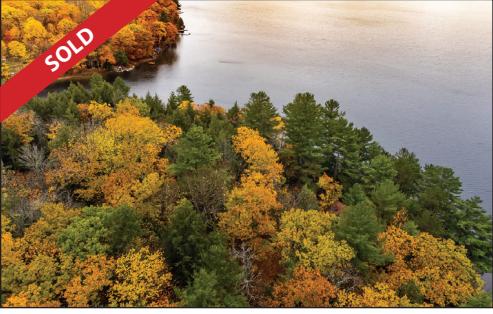
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WENONA LAKE ROAD \$799,000



Looking for privacy in a large, spacious home on a year-round road, close to Haliburton Village? Stop looking! This amazing 4+bed/3 bath home on 50+ acres has everything you need. Warm wood finishes welcome you into a large eat-in kitchen, highlighted with the character and charm of an antique wood cookstove. Pantry for added storage. Two living rooms provide space for the whole family. A large garage with commercial size door offers amazing opportunities for the mechanically inclined. Hardwood forest with pretty trails for outdoor adventures. Enjoy more of the outdoors with Wenona Lake boat launch minutes away.

UNICORN ROAD \$549,000



Your opportunity for a secluded, peaceful off grid Haliburton retreat is here! This 237 acres is the perfect destination to enjoy nature's natural beauty. Fantastic trails throughout the property. Nestled amongst the trees with a tranquil view of one of the many ponds, is a cute 22 x 22 cabin. The wood finishings throughout creates a warm and cozy feeling. Settle in and warm up in front of the wood burning stove. 24 x 24 detached garage is the ideal building to store all of your year round toys. Quick access to amenities in Haliburton Village and cell service throughout the property keeps you in the loop while enjoying your escape from the hustle and bustle.

KAWAGAMA LAKE \$279,000



Stunning south views across the lake. This property has a fantastic shoreline of mixed sand/gravel gradual entry to the water. Hydro is at the lot line and there is good cell service. This is easily accessible from either marina on the lake. Enjoy this affordable lot in the summer while you make your plans for your new cottage. Great fishing year-round and fantastic snowmobiling in the winter.

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Indulge in peace and serenity with this stunning extensively renovated, open concept four season riverfront dream home or cottage getaway. Vaulted ceilings, windows with a view and white-washed pine walls, this welcoming space is filled with natural sunlight. Incredible sunset views lead to cozy evenings entertaining in the new gourmet kitchen or unwinding with a view in the soaker tub. There is plenty of room to accommodate guests with the den in use as a 3rd bedroom. Walkout to the deck and multiple seating areas will greet you with plenty of privacy and beautiful landscaping on this well treed lot. Make this cottage your own and spend summer days swimming and kayaking down the river, and the winters exploring this natural wonderland.



